

and place a call, they should not have to worry about someone stealing from them. We must end telecommunications fraud and stop these criminals cold.

Twelve telecommunications companies have come together to fight this crime and to enhance public awareness through the Alliance to Outfox Phone Fraud. Their education efforts have gone beyond their service areas and reach out to make the national and international community aware of this problem and how to deal with it. Besides public service announcements, the alliance has launched a full campaign to include brochures, posters, and even a toll free number to encourage telecommunications customers to educate themselves and join the campaign.

We in Congress must learn from efforts like this to help Americans become aware of this problem so they can avoid becoming victims of crime.

FAIRNESS FOR DISABLED VETERANS ACT OF 1996

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about a very important issue that affects veterans in my district in Florida and veterans around the country. Right now, a veteran who has bravely served our Nation cannot collect VA disability payments while collecting payments for early separation from the armed services. Although a person may be eligible for both, under current law, a disabled veteran can't receive both. To me, that just doesn't make sense.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996 to correct this injustice in current law.

The language of the bill is simple. The bill repeals the requirement that amounts paid to a member of the Armed Forces under special separation programs shall be offset from amounts subsequently paid to that member by the Department of Veterans Affairs as disability compensation. The repeal would be retroactive to the date this rule went into effect on December 5, 1991.

Here's how this works in practice. If an individual received an SSB payment of \$30,000, he would not receive the first \$30,000 of VA disability compensation to which he would otherwise have been entitled. This legislation would allow eligible individuals to receive the full amount of disability payments regardless of prior SSB or VSI payments.

In the early 1990's, Congress established early military separation benefits to help the Defense Department reduce the size of the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense [DOD] currently offers certain military personnel the opportunity to leave military service voluntarily in return for cash payments under two programs, the Special Separation Benefit [SSB] and the Voluntary Separation Incentive [VSI]. The SSB program offers a one-time cash payment, while the VSI program provides an annual payment over many years, depending on length of service. Servicemembers who leave service under these programs have the option of choosing either program.

When this law was passed, Congress also included restrictions on these programs preventing military personnel who receive early separation benefits from receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs until the separation benefits are repaid.

Today, thousands of the veterans who accepted the payment and left the military are suffering from service-connected disabilities such as gulf war syndrome and other health problems. These disabled veterans are unable to work and their families are faced with financial hardship.

SSB and VSI benefits are for services rendered as well as compensation for the veteran's participation in DOD's downsizing. Disability pay is compensation for mental or physical disabilities incurred in that service. These are two separate compensations. That's why I believe it is unfair to offset one payment with another. If the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a benefit to a retiring member of the Armed Forces, that person deserves to receive that benefit.

That's why I've introduced this bill. Let's tell our disabled veterans that we care about them and that we will fight for what's right. I urge my colleagues to support the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996.

RED COLEMAN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Red Coleman and his family on the 50th anniversary of operating a successful, thriving business in Dallas. Red Coleman, a good friend and consummate businessman, has used his resources of leadership and education to operate 12 Red Coleman's package stores and 19 Red-E Mart convenience stores throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Mr. Red Coleman and his wife, Frances, started their business in 1946 with one store on Forest Avenue. Since that time, his stores have grown and prospered. Throughout all of his business dealings, Red Coleman has operated his stores with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to customer service.

But Red Coleman's success in business is not only evident in the quality management of his stores, but in the community in which he lends his skills and time. He is someone who believes everyone has a responsibility to give back to our community—and he does it on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, Red Coleman is a truly exceptional businessman and an outstanding person in Dallas. He, Frances, and their son Ronnie, when he joined the family business, are responsible for making so many contributions to our community. I wish Red and his family another 50 years and more of success and happiness with all their endeavors.

LIVERPOOL'S COACH JENSEN RETIRES WITH 89 PERCENT WIN RECORD OVER 33 YEARS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in saluting a man who has been a scholastic sports leader in central New York for 33 years. Now, he is retiring as the Liverpool High School cross-country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field head coach.

His name is Oscar B. Jensen, and he is known respectfully and affectionately as "OBJ."

He is a man who has been, as all good educators are, devoted to the academic as well as physical well-being of students. His extraordinary record of excellence and his exemplary guidance of young people is legendary in Liverpool, NY.

The memories students have of Oscar Jensen will remain vivid. Parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and Liverpool fans will recall his strong leadership in the athletic program for many years to come.

To relate his records briefly, in cross-country he won 207 meets, lost 99 and tied 1. He led the team to be section III champions three times and a State championship team in 1991. In indoor track and field he won 4804 and lost 500, tying 19. His teams were section III champions eight times. In outdoor track and field, he won 279 and lost only 43. His teams were OHSL Champions 14 times. He coached six State champions.

Coach Jensen's career winning percentage for all three sports is 89 percent, an outstanding tradition of excellence. Additionally, all his teams consistently finished with the top schools in the State in academic achievement.

This retirement follows his retirement 2 years ago as a physics teacher. It frees him to pursue clinics and other training of coaches and athletes, some of whom will eventually reach world-class levels of competition.

Oscar B. Jensen is an example of discipline, commitment and inspiration. He will be missed by the Liverpool community and respected for his accomplishments throughout school history.

IN HONOR OF CYRUS KATZEN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Dr. Cyrus Katzen who is the recipient of the 1996 President's Award from the American University in Washington, DC. An exceptional member of our local community, Dr. Katzen was recently honored for his dedicated service to the arts, education, and the Washington Metropolitan community.

In his life, Dr. Katzen has pursued many diverse interests in the business and the artistic communities. He received a dental degree from Georgetown University and then served as a dental surgeon at Providence Hospital, a

teacher of dentistry, and the organizer of the dental department of the DC Crippled Children's Society. But dentistry was only Dr. Katzen's first career. He also pursued an interest in banking by organizing and directing three separate financial institutions; he still serves on the board of directors for the Community Bank of Northern Virginia. As founder of the Culmore Realty Co. and president of the Mozel Development Corp. in Baileys Crossroads, VA, Dr. Katzen provided strong and continuous support for the revitalization of Baileys Crossroads and brokered real estate projects that transformed Tyson's Corner, Crystal City, and Rosslyn into the thriving commercial centers they are today.

Throughout the years, Dr. Katzen and his wife, Myrtle, have been avid collectors of art works by Picasso, Modigliani, and Sam Gilliam. They have generously supported the development of the arts at the American University, among others, and recently provided the school with a naming gift for a gallery and terrace in the university's new arts center.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the imaginative vision and commitment that Dr. Katzen has given to the arts and to the economic development of our community. He is indeed well-deserving of this distinguished award.

IN PURSUIT OF FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, JUNE 1994-JUNE 1995

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I want to enter into the RECORD a very valuable, insightful personal experience monograph, titled, "In Pursuit of Fullest Possible Accounting in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, June 1994-June 1995," prepared by Lt. Col. Melvin E. Richmond, Jr. This paper captures Colonel Richmond's unique experience while assigned as commander of Detachment 2, Joint Task Force—Full Accounting [JTF-FA], in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Colonel Richmond's account of his year of duty in Vietnam not only contains a factual record of the activities of his command, but also takes the reader on a historical review of America's efforts to reach fullest possible accounting of our missing servicemen in Vietnam. Woven throughout his monograph is an authentic description of the level of cooperation his unit experienced while working with the Vietnamese on a daily basis.

A sensitive review of this impressive paper will help many to better understand America's commitment to fullest possible accounting and to see first hand the rigors associated with our efforts to reach that goal.

ABSTRACT

Author: Melvin E. Richmond, Jr. (LTC), USA

Title: In Pursuit of the Fullest Possible Accounting in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, June 1994-June 1995

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Some 2,157 Americans remain unaccounted-for as a result of the United States's

involvement in the war in Indochina; 1,610 in Vietnam. In January 1992, the Department of Defense organized Joint Task Force—Full Accounting and began an intensive effort unprecedented in the history of warfare to account for its missing warriors. I was privileged to participate in this effort as the Commander of Detachment 2, JTF-FA from 10 June 1994 until 28 June 1995. The purpose of this paper is to describe the full accounting effort in Vietnam and my experiences during my tenure as Commander. The monograph provides sufficient background and historical information to acquaint readers with the issue. Most importantly though, it describes the progress the U.S. Government made in resolving the issue while I was there. Finally, I presented a number of lessons I learned as the Commander of Detachment 2, especially regarding hosting high level delegations, dealing with the media, cooperating with U.S. veteran organizations, interacting with the Department of State, and working with the Vietnamese Government and people.

When a soldier was injured and could not get back to safety, his buddy went out to get him, against his officer's orders. He returned mortally wounded and his friend, who he had carried back, was dead. The officer was angry. "I told you not to go," he said. "Now I've lost both of you. It was not worth it." The dying man replied, "But it was, Sir, because when I got to him he said, 'Jim, I knew you'd come.'"

"I knew you'd come." If I were to summarize the efforts of the United States to recover, identify and repatriate to the United States its missing servicemen, these four words describe them best. Today there remain more than 78,000 Americans still unaccounted-for from World War II and over 8,100 from the Korean War. As of February 27, 1996, there were 2,157 Americans still unaccounted-for as a result of the United States involvement in the war in Indochina. Quite naturally, most of those losses are in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, but there are also Americans unaccounted-for in the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the People's Republic of China.²³

In January 1992, the Department of Defense (DOD) organized Joint Task Force—Full Accounting (JTF-FA) and assigned it the mission to "resolve the cases of Americans still unaccounted-for as a result of the Southeast Asian conflict through investigation, archival research and remains-recovery operations."²⁴ Thus began an intensive effort unprecedented in the history of warfare to account for a nation's unaccounted-for warriors.⁵

I was privileged to participate in this effort as the Commander of Detachment 2, JTF-FA from June 10, 1994 until June 28, 1995. The purpose of this paper is to describe the full accounting effort in Vietnam during my tenure as Commander. I have begun with a very brief history of the United States Government's (USG) effort to resolve this issue and a description of how the USG officially accounts for its missing. I will then outline the preparations I undertook to assume my duties, and describe the organization of JTF-FA in general, and Detachment 2 in detail. The final two sections of the body of the paper, contain an examination of the aspects of progress we made in resolving the unaccounted-for issue, and close with lessons I learned during my tenure that may be of use to other military officers as they prepare for duties in similar circumstances. The lessons concentrate on issues involving hosting high level delegations, dealing with the

media, cooperating with U.S. veterans organizations, interacting with the Department of State, and working with the Vietnamese Government and people. For those who are unfamiliar with this issue, the annexes and the glossary contain information that explains the terminology associated with this issue.

To set the stage for the remainder of this paper, it is important to emphasize that as the Commander of Detachment 2, I was an operator, not a policy-maker. President Clinton "normalized" diplomatic relations with Vietnam in July 1995, because Vietnam had cooperated sufficiently in resolving the issue of Americans still missing in Vietnam. There are still many steps yet to be taken, however, before relations will be "normal." These steps are contingent upon continued progress by the Vietnamese toward resolving the issue of unaccounted-for Americans. The President and Congress will determine when the Vietnamese have progressed sufficiently to continue to move forward in our relations with Vietnam.

Any inferences you may draw regarding policy issues as you read this monograph are your own. I will lay out the developments as I saw them, but will try not to draw any conclusions regarding the level of progress. Where I state something as my opinion, it is exactly that. It does not reflect the official or unofficial positions of the United States Government, Joint Task Force—Full Accounting, the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO), or any other agency or individual.

Finally, participating in this effort is a tremendously emotional experience. Never before have I had such a strong sense of contributing to something so important. To a person, every member of JTF-FA has a single-minded purpose; to get the families the answers they so richly deserve. I cannot even begin to describe the flood of emotion we felt whenever we found a tooth during an excavation, because we knew that it would, in all likelihood, lead to an identification. I cannot explain the sense of satisfaction we got when we unearthed two gold wedding bands and human remains when excavating an aircraft crash site thought to be that of two missing Americans.

I believe Leslie Weatherhead's passage at the opening of this paper best describes why those of us in JTF-FA felt our mission was so important. I normally recited her quote privately to our participants before every repatriation ceremony to remind everyone of why we were there. Being in Hanoi and working this issue day in and day out, it was easy to become somewhat hardened to the importance of our mission. I believe the repatriation ceremonies were the heart and soul of what we did, and thought it was a good time to reflect on our mission. Each ceremony culminated years of work to find and recover each set of remains. And now, more than 20 years after making the ultimate sacrifice for their country, these soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors—some of God's noblest people—were going home.

"War is always and will ever be obscene, but faced with a greater obscenity—slavery, I would fight. While war is obscene, those who go forward, who charge the machine guns, who bleed, who go down to the aid stations and are put in body bags—they are not obscene, their sacrifices have no measure—theirs has a purity where mankind shines and is beyond corruption. I am not blasphemous when I say that in the brutality and evil of war, soldiers who have offered themselves up so that their buddies may live, have in them the likeness and image of God. And damn those who debunk courage, valor, fidelity, love of country, love of home, family, hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow. Our soldiers give up much—that others

¹Footnotes at end.